

CLAIMS



What is claimed is:

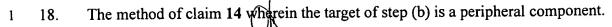
- 1. A fault-tolerant data processing apparatus comprising:
 - a plurality of data processing elements executing substantially identical instruction streams substantially simultaneously;
- a target in communication with at least one of the plurality of data processing elements; and
- a switching fabric communicating transactions asynchronously between at least one of the plurality of data processing elements and the target.
- 1 2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of data processing elements 2 execute the same instruction in lock-step synchronization.
- 1 3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of data processing elements 2 comprises a Central Processing Unit (CPU).
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the CPU further comprises a plurality of 2 processors.
- 1 5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the target is a data processing element.
- 1 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the target is a peripheral component.
- 7. The apparatus of claim 6 wherein a channel adapter interconnects the peripheral component to the switching fabric.
- 1 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a plurality of channel adapters interconnect,
- 2 respectively, each of the plurality of data processing elements to the switching fabric.





- 1 9. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of voter delay buffers
- wherein each of the plurality of voter delay buffers is in communication with at least one
- of the plurality of data processing elements.
- 1 10. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a plurality of direct memory access
- 2 (DMA) engines in communication with the switching fabric.
- 1 11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of data processing elements are
- 2 identified by a node address.
- 1 12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein each of the plurality of data processing elements
- 2 is individually identified by a respective device address.
- 1 13. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the transaction comprises at least one
- 2 information packet.
- 1 14. A method for fault tolerant digital data processing comprising:
- 2 (a) generating by a plurality of data processing elements identical transactions
- 3 each having a target address; and
- 4 (b) communicating the identical transactions asynchronously on a switching
- fabric to the target identified by the target address.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein step (b) comprises:
- 2 (b-a) communicating identical transactions to a voting unit; and
- 3 (b-b) transmitting by the voting unit a single transaction asynchronously on a
- 4 switching fabric.
- 1 16. The method of claim 14 wherein the target address is a node address.
- 1 17. The method of claim 14 where in the target address is a device address.





- 1 19. The method of claim 14 wherein step (b) further comprises:
- 2 (b-a) communicating each of the identical transactions from each of the plurality of data processing elements to each of a plurality of channel adapters;
 - (b-b) communicating each of the identical transactions from each of the plurality of channel adapters to the switching fabric;
- 6 (b-c) communicating the identical transaction from the switching fabric to a 7 channel adapter; and
- 8 (b-d) communicating the identical transaction from the channel adapter to the target.

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